

GreenPower News

A weekly update from Western's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports and studies and funding.

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July 1, 2013

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Green Power

Solar gardens give access to green energy to more Coloradans

From the roof of a one-time Air Force hangar in Denver's Lowry neighborhood to a lot at the edge of Breckenridge, large, community solar-power arrays are popping up across Colorado.

Spurred by a pilot program by Xcel Energy, the state's largest electricity provider, 22 "solar gardens" are being built from Aurora to Grand Junction, with more to come.

"Colorado has become a solar-garden hot spot," said David Amster-Olszewski, chief executive at Colorado Springs-based SunShare, which has Xcel contracts for five solar gardens in Arapahoe and Adams counties.

[Read more.](#) Source: *The Denver Post*, 6/27/13

45 Top Mayors Pledge Action on Extreme Weather, Launch National Resilience Campaign

Mayors of Washington DC, Denver, Cincinnati, Sacramento, San Diego, Milwaukee, El Paso, Broward County and others—commit to creating more resilient cities and counties in response to nation's growing extreme weather, climate and energy challenges; call for greater federal support

Forty five leading local elected officials today committed to creating more resilient cities, towns, and counties in the face of unprecedented extreme weather and energy challenges that threaten communities across the country. The "Inaugural Signatories" of the Resilient Communities for America Agreement letter pledged to take cost-effective actions to prepare and protect their communities from the increasing disasters and disruptions fueled by climate change, such as heat waves, floods, droughts, severe storms, and wildfires. In addition, they called for more action and support from federal leaders. [Read more](#). Source: ICLEI 6/17/13

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports, studies and policy

A Whole New Way of Thinking About Geothermal

It's baseload, but it can also make the grid work for wind and solar.

Geothermal is rebranding itself.

"Since the first geothermal project in 1905 in Italy, the industry has always positioned itself as baseload and crafted power purchase agreements to maximize that one attribute," said Paul Thomsen, Ormat Technologies' Policy and Business Director, at a kickoff press conference for the Geothermal Energy Association National Geothermal Summit. "Geothermal shouldn't be defined by one specific attribute."

Ormat's technology can offer automatic grid control. "It provides inertia, dispatchability, voltage regulation, and reactive power, and can be ramped up and down very quickly," Thomsen said. [Read more](#). Source: *GreenTechMedia*, 6/27/13

Solar in the Neighborhood

This is an excerpt from the [June 24, 2013: Solar-savvy grid funding, green-collar growth efforts, and an HOA-focused solar report edition](#) of the SunShot newsletter.

The Solar Foundation released *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: Encouraging Solar Development through Community Association Policies and Processes* to help homeowner association (HOA) boards and other community leaders effectively bring more solar to their communities.

With support from the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership (SolarOPs), this 28-page guide highlights a range of strategies that balance the desire to encourage solar development with the need to honor rules that maintain community standards. Such strategies can provide an attractive opportunity for residents to increase their property values with clean energy upgrades. [Read more](#). Source: *DOE Sunshot Newsletter*, 6/24/13

IREC 'Connecting to the Grid' newsletter available to download

What's new as of June 2013?

- Note from the Editor
- Integrated Distribution Planning: A path to sustaining growth
- State News in Detail

- New York authorizes additional funds for customer-sited renewable energy programs
- New Jersey BPU approves plan to develop 45 MW of grid-connected solar
- Minnesota enacts extensive renewable energy bill including net metering updates
- Georgia PSC approves plan to solicit 60 MW of solar development
- Arizona study finds overwhelming benefit from DG systems to ratepayers
- California ramps up energy storage mandates
- Colorado increases Renewable Energy Standard for cooperatives
- Idaho PSC agrees to small expansion of net metering capacity but also to harmful interconnection fees
- Hawaii PUC issues decisions in rate decoupling to encourage investment in renewables and efficiency
- Upcoming Events
- Miscellaneous News
 - New Solar Guide Could Tap 3.3GW Potential Of HOA Communities

Download [Connecting to the Grid](#). Source: *Interstate Renewable Energy Council*, 6/12/13

Energy Commission Implements Renewable Program for Public Utilities

The California Energy Commission today approved new rules for publicly owned utilities (POUs) ensuring California's success to achieve the 33 percent renewable energy target by 2020.

"The publicly owned utilities are an important partner to meet the statewide Renewables Portfolio Standard," said Energy Commission Chair Robert B. Weisenmiller. "I look forward to working with the utilities to secure California's victory of 33 percent renewable energy by 2020 that is critical to reduce our emissions and secure environmental benefits. California's RPS is a dynamic model that is making significant strides in developing clean renewable energy that is a role model for the nation."

Building on California's most ambitious renewable energy policy in the nation, the new regulations establish the rules and procedures that the Energy Commission will use to assess the actions of the state's 45 POUs and determine whether those actions meet the Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) procurement requirements. The proposed regulations require the POUs to submit plans, reports, and other information to the Energy Commission so the Energy Commission can verify and determine compliance with the RPS. [Read more](#). Source: *California Energy Commission*, 6/12/13

Frequently Asked Questions about Utility-Scale Wind Power

The Utility Wind Integration Group is pleased to make available a document answering Frequently Asked Questions on Utility-Scale Wind Power. This document was developed as part of the Distributed Wind Evaluation Methodology project funded by the American Public Power Association's Demonstration of Energy Efficient Developments (DEED) Program and the Centre for Energy Advancement through Technological Innovation (CEATI) Distribution Assets Life Cycle Management Interest Group. Full of links to sources of additional information, the publication is intended to help utilities and their customers determine whether wind generation is a technically viable option to meet their power supply needs. [Read more](#). Source: *VariableGen.org*, 6/12/13

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

Nearly \$38 Million in Funding Available for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

The Tribal Energy Program, under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is pleased to forward the following information on various funding opportunities that may be of interest to Tribes. Nearly \$38 million in funding is available for state, local, and tribal governments from DOE, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) that can be used to support climate and energy initiatives, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable planning, and urban forestry. For full eligibility and application details, please visit the links provided below.

- [USDA 2014 National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program](#) – \$900,000
Applications due: July 15, 2013
- [HUD Hope VI Mainstreet Program](#) – \$500,000
Applications due: July 22, 2013
Eligible entities: Local governments with a population of 50,000 or less, and with fewer than 100 physical public housing units
- [EDA Economic Development Assistance Programs Federal Funding Opportunity](#) – Total Funding Available TBD
Applications due: Varies by program year; next due date is September 13, 2013
- [Corporation for National and Community Service's Senior Corps: RSVP](#) – \$14.5 Million
Letter for Intent to Apply: August 9, 2013
Applications due: September 10, 2013

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 6/18/13

Funding Opportunities, Training and Events and News for Tribes

The Tribal Energy Program, under the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, is pleased to forward the following information courtesy of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the DOE Office of Indian Energy, and DOE's Green Power Network.

This issue contains the following topics:

- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [News and Information](#)
- [Requests for Proposals for Renewable Energy](#)

[Subscribe](#) to email updates. *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 6/12/13*

Find more [funding sources](#).

Western Area Power Administration, 12155 W. Alameda Parkway, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228-8213,

Phone: 720-962-7423; Fax: 720-962-7427; E-message: [Randy Manion](#) | [Upper Great Plains Region](#) | [Desert Southwest Region](#) | [Rocky Mountain Region](#) | [Sierra Nevada Region](#) | [CRSP Customer Service Center](#) | [Corporate Service Office](#)